

In the Specification:

At page 2, last paragraph, starting on line 25 and continuing to page 3, lines 1 and 8, please change to read as follows:

More specifically, in the example shown in FIG. 1, ~~each required bandwidth is the~~ respective required bandwidths are 4 Mbps for connecting site A to site B; 3 Mbps for site A to site C; 2 Mbps for site A to site D; and 5 Mbps for site A to site E which is limited by a bandwidth of the originating site.

In case of interconnection between a plurality of sites in FIG. 1, ~~[[a]]~~ fully mesh-structured paths are required, where each required bandwidth be reserved on each site for possible use, which is totally ~~44 Mbps~~ 14 Mbps in this case. This is apparently inefficient because required bandwidth resources increase with the squared number of sites.

At page 5, paragraph 8, starting on line 5, please change to read as follows:

As a preferred embodiment of a method for allocating network aggregation bandwidth, and a network system using this method, according to the invention to solve the aforementioned problem, if a plurality of paths possible to aggregate exist among paths for interconnecting said plurality of user sites, paths are aggregated with respect to a user site of interest having an allocatable bandwidth smaller than ~~the other~~ a second user site.

Further, as another preferred embodiment of a method for allocating network aggregation bandwidth, and a network system using this method, according to the invention to solve the aforementioned problem, when a virtual site having a host or a gateway to ~~another other~~ network used ~~by the user~~ a user site of interest is connected to said inter-site connection network, bandwidth allocation is set based on the virtual site regarded as the user site of interest.

Still further, as another preferred embodiment of a method for allocating network aggregation bandwidth, and a network system using this method, according to the invention to solve the aforementioned problem, when said user site of interest becomes not existent, a path related thereto is deleted, and whether the aggregation for other paths having the same aggregation path ID as the deleted path has been constructed at the destination site or the originating site is investigated. If the aggregation has not been constructed, a new aggregation relation is established among paths having either the same destination site or the same originating site; else if the aggregation has been constructed at either the destination site or originating site having a larger site bandwidth, then the existing aggregation relation is canceled to obtain a new aggregation bandwidth based on a user site having a smaller bandwidth.

At page 9, last paragraph, starting on line 23, please change to read as follows:

In each node ~~nodes~~ through which a message is transferred, a bandwidth is allocated for a plurality of paths. Or, otherwise, a server commonly provided in a network transmits a bandwidth allocation message. This message has a function of indicating to each node an aggregated path and its aggregated bandwidth, from an originating site, as an entry, to a destination site through transit nodes.